GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3224
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2009
CIVIL NUCLEAR COOPERATION
Bhujbal Shri Sameer

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Nuclear Supplier Group (NSG) has given concessions to India on civil nuclear cooperation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is into talks with many countries on the matter of nuclear trade;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of the benefits likely to accrue to India as a result thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA)

(a) & (b) Yes. The NSG adopted a decision by consensus on September 6, 2008 to enable full civil nuclear cooperation with India. Vide this decision the NSG paved the way for civil nuclear cooperation between NSG Member States and India, including in NSG Trigger List items and nuclear related dual-use equipment, materials, software and related technology to India for peaceful purposes and for use in IAEA safeguarded nuclear facilities.

(c) to (d) Following the NSG decision of September 6, 2008, Government has signed agreements on civil nuclear cooperation with France, US, Russia, Namibia, Mongolia and Argentina. Cooperation agreements with other countries including Kazakhstan, Russia, Canada and UK are in various stages of negotiations.

(e) To meet its energy requirements, India is looking to expand international civil nuclear cooperation with a view to establishing capacity additional to its domestic indigenous programme, including access to the international nuclear fuel market. The NSG decision has enabled India's cooperation with other countries in peaceful uses of nuclear energy which will assist India in meeting its energy and development requirements.